OBJECTIONS

AGAINST

Edmund Hemming's Propoſals

(Now lying before this Honourable Houſe, for Eight Millions of Money, by laying a Duty on BEDS) Anſwered, with ſome REMARKS.

Objection, That there are not Five Beds to a Houſe one with another, and therefore the Calculation muſt fall ſhort.

Anſwered, *That Five Beds to each Houſe, one with another, is as near a Calculation as can be made, without poſitive proof; and there being allowed in the ſaid Propoſals above one third part of the Kingdom to pay nothing (as being deemed poor) then computing the remaining 800000 Houſes mentioned in the ſaid Propoſals, which are more large. Now, if ſome of them have but 2, 3, or 4 Beds to a Houſe, yet it muſt be granted, that abundance have 6, 8, 10, 15, 20, or more, ſo there can be no great miſtake in the Calculation.*

Object. That this Duty will fall heavy upon thoſe Perſons that depend upon Lodgers, and they ought to be excuſed as well as Inn-keepers (which are propoſed to pay no more for their Beds then what their Family uſe.

Anſw. *Were all private Houſes as lyable to quarter Soldiers as Inns, it might be reaſonable; but having Power to accept or refuſe what Lodgers they pleaſe, there is more reaſon they ſhould pay; becauſe they receive profit by their Beds, when others that muſt pay make no benefit by Lodgings.*

Object. This Duty will fall hard upon Day-Labourers, that have a great charge of Children, and conſequently many Beds.

Anſw. *This is a material Objection, and eaſily anſwered, for this Honourable Houſe may except thoſe Perſons, or charge them as they ſhall ſee fit.*

Object. That to take the Number of Beds in the Kingdom, will occaſion Officers to come into Peoples Houſes, which cannot be indured.

Anſw. *It is not intended, but the Maſter or Miſtreſs of the Houſe, to give in their own account of their Beds, to ſuch Officers that will come to their doors for that purpoſe: And if any ſuch Perſon give in a falſe Account, them to forfeit ——— for each Bed concealed; whereby it may be ſuppoſed, no Perſon will hazard the forfeiture of ——— for wronging the King of Seven or Eight Shillings.*

REMARKS.

This Duty may be ſuppoſed to reach the Abilities of Men, and may be charged according to Quality; and ſo make it a more equal Tax then any heretofore has been.

This Duty muſt be allowed to be as good and certain a Fond as can be found out, being the moſt general and neceſſary Commodity in *England*, for no Man but would lye upon a Bed or Quilt at Night; and it cannot be ſuppoſed, that any Perſon would lye without it, on purpoſe to defraud the King of the Duty.

It is Humbly Conceived, That this Duty will amount to ſo great a Sum that the Land might be excuſed this Year; but if it be thought neceſſary not wholly to depend upon this, by reaſon it may be uncertain, then if the Land pay 2 *s.* in the pound, (which would make one Million) the Beds would make Six millions more, allowing Two Millions to fall ſhort in the Calculation.

This Duty, and that upon Land, may be Collected by the ſame Officers, but to lay ſeveral Duties upon ſeveral Commodities, which neceſſarily muſt be if this be not accepted, will create a great Number of Officers, and put the Kingdom to a vaſt Expence in Collecting, beſides ſubject to many Frauds.